

## Free Tax Help

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$55,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country. To locate VITA or TCE sites, visit <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/> or call 800-906-9887.

## For More Information

For more information and helpful materials to help you understand both the CalEITC and federal EITC, as well as information on how individuals can get their tax returns done for free, go to [www.CalEITC4Me.org](http://www.CalEITC4Me.org)



# How the CalEITC & Federal EITC

can foster economic  
opportunities for Californians

# What is the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC)?



The CalEITC is a cash-back tax credit that, along with the federal EITC, can result in hundreds or even thousands of extra dollars back into the pockets of California's working families, college students, and seniors. That's extra money they can use for rent, school tuition, utilities, groceries, savings, and other important expenses!

## How will the CalEITC and the federal EITC work together?

- In addition to CalEITC, individuals may be eligible for the federal EITC if they earn \$54,883 or less, depending on their tax filing status.
- Both credits will be available this tax season and may provide a refund or reduce the amount of taxes an individual may owe.
- Californians that qualify for the CalEITC will likely also qualify for the federal EITC. This will significantly boost household income for eligible families and individuals!
- If individuals are not eligible for the CalEITC, they should check out the federal EITC at <https://www.caleitc4me.org/federal-earned-income-tax-credit/>

96% of CalEITC claims are from those who are not required to file taxes – their participation is entirely dependent on effective outreach.

## Individuals may be eligible for the CalEITC if they:

- Are over age 18;
- Work for an employer or are self-employed;
- Are single or have kids;
- Have a Social Security Number valid for work;
- Have lived in CA at least half the tax year;
- Have earned income within certain limits (see table);
- May be eligible to claim a cash-back refund even if they don't have a filing requirement.

## Changes to maximum income from 2017 to 2018

The income standards for both the state and federal EITC have been increased for 2018, meaning more Californians will be eligible! The table below shows how individuals may be eligible and how much they may qualify to receive when filling their 2018 tax returns.

	CalEITC		Federal EITC		
Number of Children	Maximum Income	CalEITC Refund (Up to)	Maximum Income (Single, Head of Household or Widowed)	Maximum Income (Married Filing Jointly)	Federal EITC Refund (Up to)
None	\$16,750	\$232	\$15,270	\$20,950	\$519
1	\$24,950	\$1,554	\$40,320	\$46,010	\$3,461
2	\$24,950	\$2,559	\$45,802	\$51,492	\$5,716
3 or more	\$24,950	\$2,879	\$49,194	\$54,884	\$6,431

According to this table, an individual earning \$15,270 in a year, filing as single, head of household, or widowed, and with no children, may qualify to receive up to \$232 from the CalEITC and up to \$519 from the federal EITC, meaning they could get up to an additional \$751 back on their tax refund!

Individuals may also use an EITC calculator at <https://www.caleitc4me.org/earn-it/> for exact results.

